



California Youth Authority

# News Advisory

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **CYA OBSERVES SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

SACRAMENTO— California Youth Authority (CYA) facilities statewide will participate with victims' rights advocates throughout the nation in recognizing the 25th Annual Commemoration of National Crime Victims Rights Week, April 10-16, 2003.

"This year's national theme, "Justice Isn't Served Until Crime Victims Are," emphasizes America's commitment to victims to provide them with equal justice, as well as advocacy to help them implement their rights," said CYA Director Walter Allen III. "This week is about bringing honor to all crime victims by promoting a greater understanding of their needs."

CYA activities will begin with a moment of silence at 10 a.m. on April 11, 2005 which will mark the beginning of a weeklong schedule of events. Some CYA activities and events that will be held over the week include: guest speakers who are victims themselves or are family members of victims; essay, poster, and poetry contests among the offenders; memorial services; voluntary offender-restitution-collection drives; and a variety of fund-raising events generated to benefit victims groups.

Activities also extend to parole offices throughout the state, where CYA parole staff and parolees are coordinating a variety of events in their local communities. In addition to guest speakers and presentations, other activities will include fund-raisers such as car washes to benefit local community victim support and crime prevention organizations.

The CYA's commitment to involving victims in offender programming continues to grow. According to Allen, offenders need to understand the harm they have caused to victims, communities, their own families, and themselves.

The CYA provides institutional training and parole supervision for juvenile and young adult offenders. The department also works with community organizations, local law enforcement and other agencies on gang and drug suppression and delinquency prevention activities. The department is responsible for 7,156 juveniles and young adult offenders, with 3,307 in 8 institutions and three conservation camps, and 3,819 on parole. In addition, more than 27,000 crime victims are on record to receive services from the department.

**NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL  
CYA FACILITIES FOR A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT INDIVIDUAL SITES.**

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